

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An outside handle device comprising:
a handle portion provided at the outside of a vehicle door; and
a handle frame fixed to the provided inside a vehicle door and supporting the handle portion via an arm portion provided on the handle portion
~~, wherein the arm portion is provided with an engaging means, the handle frame is provided with the engaged means which designates an assembling direction of the arm portion by engaging with the engaging means~~
a handle portion located outside the vehicle door, the handle portion comprising an arm portion possessing a distal end;
the arm portion of the handle portion extending into the handle frame, with the distal end of the arm portion contacting the handle frame at a position about which the handle portion rotates when the handle portion is rotated to open the vehicle door; and
first and second members provided at the arm portion of the handle portion and the handle frame, respectively, the first member being located at a position different from the distal end of the arm portion, the second member being in sliding engagement with the first member to define a path of extension of the handle frame.

2. (Currently Amended) An outside handle device according to claim 1, wherein the first member is one of a pin and a groove, while the second member is the other of the pin and the groove.

~~the engaging means and the engaged means respectively correspond to a protrusions and groove which guides the protrusions, and the engaging means and the engaged means respectively correspond to a groove which guides the protrusions and a protrusions.~~

3. (Currently Amended) An outside handle device according to claim 1, wherein an electrical component is accommodated in the handle portion, a first connecting element is pivotably mounted on the arm portion and is electrically connected to the electrical component, and a second connecting element is provided at the handle frame and is in electrical engagement with the first connecting element.

4. (Currently Amended) An outside handle device according to claim 2, ~~wherein an electrical component is accommodated in the handle portion, the arm portion is rotatably provided with a first connecting portion electrically connected to the electrical component accommodated in the handle portion, the handle frame is provided with a second connecting portion electrically connected to the first connecting portion by engaging with the first connecting portion~~ 3, wherein the first connecting element is at least partially surrounded by an internal surface of the arm portion.

5. (Currently Amended) An outside handle device according to claim 3, wherein ~~the first connecting portion is provided on the arm portion so as to be surrounded by an internal surface of the arm portion~~ the electrical component is an antenna.

6. (Currently Amended) An outside handle device according to claim [4] 3, wherein ~~the first connecting portion is provided on the arm portion so as to be surrounded by an internal surface of the arm portion~~ electrical component is a sensor for door-unlocking operation.

7. (Currently Amended) An outside handle device according to claim [1] 3, wherein ~~the handle portion is fixedly supported by the handle frame~~ electrical component is a door-locking switch.

8. (Currently Amended) An outside handle device according to claim [1] 3, wherein ~~the handle portion is movably supported by the handle frame so as to be movable relative to the handle frame~~ first connecting element is a connector.

9. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 3, wherein the first connecting element is a connector holder.

10. (New) An outside handle device comprising:
a handle frame provided inside a vehicle door;

a handle portion located outside the vehicle door, the handle portion comprising an arm portion;

at least one protrusion provided at one of the arm portion and the handle frame, the at least one protrusion possessing an axis;

at least one groove provided at the other of the arm portion and the handle frame;

the at least one protrusion being positioned in the at least one groove and sliding along the at least one groove when the handle portion is assembled to the handle frame; and

the handle portion being rotatable about an axis that is spaced from the axis of the at least one protrusion as one end portion of the handle portion is rotated away from the vehicle door to open the vehicle door.

11. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 10, wherein the at least one protrusion comprises a pair of protrusions and the at least one groove comprises a pair of grooves, each of the protrusions being positioned in a respective one of the grooves to slide along the respective groove when the handle portion is assembled to the handle frame.

12. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 10, wherein the axis about which the handle portion rotates is defined by contact between arm portion and the handle frame when the handle portion is rotated to open the vehicle door.

13. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 10, wherein an electrical component is accommodated in the handle portion, a first connecting element is mounted at the arm portion and is electrically connected to the electrical component, and a second connecting element is provided at the handle frame and is in electrical engagement with the first connecting element.

14. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 13, wherein the first connecting element is at least partially surrounded by an internal surface of the arm portion.

15. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 13, wherein the electrical component is an antenna.

16. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 13, wherein the electrical component is a door-unlocking operation sensor.

17. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 13, wherein the electrical component is a door-locking switch.

18. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 13, wherein the first connecting element is a connector.

19. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 13, wherein the first connecting element is a connector holder.

20. (New) An outside handle device according to claim 10, wherein said at least one protrusion comprises two protrusions extending away from opposite sides of the arm portion, and the at least one groove comprises two grooves extending along side wall portions of the handle frame, each of the protrusions being positioned in a respective one of the grooves and sliding along the respective groove when the handle portion is assembled to the handle frame.